(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether benefits will be passed to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) In view of recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has already reduced the retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country and thus, passed on benefits to consumers:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

Progress of IPI gas pipeline project

183. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bi-lateral issues between India and Pakistan concerning the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline have been resolved and that a joint case will soon be put up at the trilateral meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a time schedule has been laid by Government for commencement of work on this pipeline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to enhance energy security of the country, import of natural gas is being pursued from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues concerning the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries, *viz*., Iran, Pakistan and India.

(c) and (d) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the projects. Implementation of the Project will start only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion amongst the countries participating in the Project. As such, a time schedule cannot be laid down.

Reduction in petro-prices

184. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will further reduce the price of diesel, petrol, domestic gas and other oil products in view of the reduction of crude oil price in international market;

(b) whether Government is aware that many petrol pumps are giving less petrol and in some cases petrol pumps are mixing some liquid to get more profit; and

(c) if so, details thereof and in how many of such cases Government has taken action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) In view of recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has already reduced the retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

The prices of decontrolled petroleum products are fixed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the basis of international oil prices and commercial considerations.

(b) to (c) The possibility of adulteration of Petrol/Diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out.

OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspection/of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guideline/ (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Revision of MDG etc. Details of number of cases of adulteration detected during April - December, 2008 is as under:

2008-09 (April -December, 2008)

Number of cases of adulteration and short deliveries detected	924
Number of Retail Outlets terminated for above irregularities	36

Earnings and debt of OMCS

†185. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of additional earnings to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) following hike in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG in June, 2008 by Government and the amount of alleged loss compensated by this income with details of petrol, diesel and LPG separately;

(b) the amount of debt uncompensated even after this hike, OMC-wise;

(c) the details of the income earned by each OMC during the last year; and

(d) whether there is any rational in keeping the prices at higher level even after heavy decrease in the international prices of oil?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi